

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W
-----051326 039625 /40

R 041530Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9958
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, SW, UR
SUBJECT: AGAPOV CASE AGAIN IN THE NEWS

REF: STOCKHOLM 0192

1. THE POLITICALLY AND PERSONALLY PAINFUL FAMILY
REUNIFICATION CASE OF LUDMILLA AGAPOVA IS AGAIN THE SUBJECT
OF CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN THE SWEDISH MEDIA. ON MARCH 4,
THE SWEDISH PRESS REPORTED THAT AGAPOVA HAS NOW WRITTEN
TO PRESIDENT CARTER TO ASK THAT HE INFLUENCE SOVIET
AUTHORITIES TO GRANT HER, HER DAUGHTER AND MOTHER-IN-LAW EXIT
VISAS WHICH WOULD PERMIT THEIR REUNIFICATION WITH HER HUSBAND,
VALENTIN AGAPOV, WHO HAS RESIDED IN SWEDEN FOR THE PAST
THREE YEARS AS A POLITICAL EXILE.

2. ON MARCH 1, AGAPOV TOLD THE SWEDISH PRESS THAT, AT
THE INSISTENCE OF HIS WIFE, HE HAD DROPPED HIS LEGAL
ADVISOR, PAVEL VESSELOV, HIMSELF A POLITICAL EXILE SINCE
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1944 FROM THE USSR. MRS. AGAPOVA DENIED TO A SWEDISH
CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW THIS WEEK THAT HER NEGATIVE
ATTITUDE TOWARD VESSELOV HAD BEEN STIMULATED BY THE KGB
OR ANYONE ELSE. SHE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT RECENT
ARTICLES IN KOMSOMOLSKAJA PRAVDA DENOUNCING VESSELOV AS
A COLLABORATOR WITH THE GERMANS IN WORLD WAR II HAD
INFLUENCED HER TO CRITICIZE VESSELOV PUBLICLY AND TO

DEMAND THAT HE BE WITHDRAWN FROM HER CASE. VESSELOV HAS RETORTED THAT HE IS A VICTIM OF A SOVIET CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM AND EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE WORKING FOR A REUNIFICATION OF THE FAMILY.

3. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, THE "COMMITTEE FOR AGAPOV" ON MARCH 3 DEMANDED MRS. AGAPOVA'S RELEASE, BUT ALSO INDICATED THAT IT CONTINUES TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN VESSELOV. THIS COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS NOT, AT LEAST IN RECENT TIMES, SURFACED PUBLICLY, IS SAID BY THE PRESS TO HAVE ACTIVE BRANCHES IN SIX SWEDISH CITIES ATTEMPTING TO BUILD UP PUBLIC PRESSURE FOR REUNIFICATION OF THE AGAPOV AND OTHER FAMILIES, SOME OF WHOSE MEMBERS REMAIN IN VARIOUS EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE SOVIET UNION. IT HAS ALSO BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE CONGREGATIONS AND OFFICIALS OF CHURCHES THROUGHOUT SWEDEN (NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED), ARE PLANNING JOINT EFFORTS TO REUNITE THE AGAPOV FAMILY. A LETTER TO BREZHNEV WILL BE TRANSMITTED WITH COPIES TO SEVENTEEN FOREIGN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. NO SWEDISH GOVERNMENT STATEMENT HAS YET BEEN ISSUED AS A RESULT OF THIS LATEST PUBLICITY.

4. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTEL, FOREIGN MINISTER SODER CALLED IN SOVIET CHARGE TO EXPRESS SWEDISH DISAPPOINTMENT OVER SOVIET FAILURE TO ACT ON THE AGAPOV CASE. SHE ALSO TOLD THE PRESS AT THAT TIME THAT SHE WAS PESSIMISTIC THAT MOSCOW WOULD TAKE EARLY, POSITIVE ACTION. ANY ADDITIONAL GOS PUBLIC STATEMENTS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY EXPRESS CONTINUED OUTRAGE OVER SOVIET OBSTINANCY. PRIVATELY, HOWEVER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBASSY IS INFORMED BY MFA THAT EVERY PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE CASE IN SWEDEN PROBABLY FORTIFIES SOVIET UNWILLINGNESS TO PERMIT THE AGAPOV FAMILY TO LEAVE. MFA OFFICIALS ALSO MAINTAIN THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF VESSELOV IN THE CASE HAS BEEN A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE SOVIET ATTITUDE. PERRY

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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